

BIRKHEAD ASKS FEDERAL BUREAU OF PROPAGANDA

L. M. Birkhead, executive secretary and main sparkplug of "Friends of Democracy" whose publications have long called patriotic Americans "native fascists," has now come up with a proposal which would be acceptable either to real fascists or to communists, but hardly to real Americans. He advocates establishment of a vast federal propaganda organization. Representing himself as taking the middle of the road between Communism and Fascism, he said in *The Christian Register*, for September:

"A short time ago, I wrote President Truman urging that the Chief Executive propose the establishment of an effective, democratic Information and Propaganda Department within the government to combat and counteract the propaganda efforts of the extremists."

Though admitting that "propaganda can be the tricky, dangerous instrument of evil," Birkhead envisaged a Federal propaganda agency which would sell its brand of "democracy" to the American people "with hundreds of millions annually at its disposal." He said that "Private Enterprise today is performing the task in a necessarily limited way."

If America is to take this long step toward totalitarianism in the name of "democracy," observers were quick to point out, we shall need an American Joe Goebbels to head it up. And who could fill the job better, they asked, than the author of the Great Proposal himself?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write President Truman yourself, telling him what you think of the proposal to ape Nazi Germany and Communist Russia by establishing an "Information and Propaganda Department within the government."

Action Report

will be published the fifteenth of each month. If you wish extra copies we shall be glad to send them on request. Two copies free, 10 for 25c, 50 for \$1.

Straws in the Wind...

What is behind the announcement that the American Communist Party will not formally affiliate with the new "Cominform"—the out-from-hiding Comintern—recently announced by the Communist parties of Europe? No informed person imagines that it indicates any independence among American Communists, whose every move is dictated from Moscow. Perhaps the clearest explanation is given by Columnist Dorothy Thompson.

The role of American Communists, she says, must be different from that of European Communists. In Europe they can boast of their strength, and promise rewards for cooperation with Russia. In America, however, they must aid the Soviet strategy of weakening America within, and this depends upon the public being unaware of their strength. "The American Communists," says Miss Thompson, "can only attempt to conceal their role of reducing the world's premier power to helpless impotence. Therefore, while other Communist parties boast of their power, the American Communist Party must appear as a weak, helpless victim of 'fascism,' 'hysteria,' and 'witch hunting.'"

The "Society for the Prevention of World War III, Inc." furnishes an interesting example of left-of-center strategy. While there is no available evidence whatsoever that this strategy stems from Moscow, yet nothing in the Society's propaganda would tend to make any member of the Soviet Politburo unhappy. The thesis: World War III, if it comes, will be with Germany (any Russian danger is simply ignored). Therefore Germany must be kept prostrate, as in the Morgenthau Plan. According to its platform (first adopted in Feb. 1945), "East Prussia, Silesia, the Ruhr, the Rhineland and the Saar shall be permanently separated from Germany. . . . No heavy industry shall be permitted to remain in Germany nor in German ownership. . . ." Among its sponsors are, the Rev. Henry A. Atkinson, the Rev. L. M. Birkhead, Louis Bromfield, Jo Davidson, Allan Nevins, Quentin Reynolds, William Jay Schieffelin, Robert St. John, Lisa Sergio, the Rev. Guy Emery Shipley, Rex Stout, Darryl F. Zanuck, Walter Wanger and Bartley Crum.

Recently the New York Court of Appeals (the State's highest court) handed down an opinion which in effect declares that it is defamatory to call anyone a Communist or even to say that he has Communist leanings. Truth, of course, would be a good defense if libel were charged. . . . A number of years ago the United States Supreme Court, speaking through Justice Frankfurter, said that to call a man a Fascist was not defamatory in itself, but simply a part of the ordinary give and take of modern politics. . . . Do our courts take one position about the charge of Communism and another toward the charge of Fascism?

Since the beginning of the war in 1939, the USA has given, net, to foreign countries, \$58,206,741,335. Of this sum, Soviet Russia received a mere \$11,681,393,782. It has paid back, in "reverse lend-lease," a total of \$2,219,000. This is \$1 returned for every \$5,310 sent. . . . The nearly twelve billions can be permanently entered in red ink. . . .

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NEC ACTION REPORT

National Economic Council, Inc., 7501 Empire State Bldg., New York 1, N. Y.

No. 3

FREEDMAN SPEECH PREVENTED BY PRO-ZIONIST 'VETS'

A projected meeting of the Spring Valley (N. Y.) Republican Club at which Benjamin H. Freedman, noted non-Zionist Jew, was to speak, had to be abandoned Nov. 12th after a group describing themselves as "Jewish War Veterans" picketed the hall, told persons arriving that there would be no meeting, invaded the meeting place and threatened to use force.

Mr. Freedman, his wife and Miss Sara H. Birchall, President of the club, had finally to be escorted through the milling crowd by police, who then put the Freedmans on a New York bus to assure their physical safety.

Miss Birchall, widely known in the advertising world, had first considered having political Zionism discussed before the club after a "Town Meeting" in Spring Valley on Nov. 1st had heard famed confessed automobile thief "William Gailmor" (real name Margolies) defend pro-Zionism along with many tenets of the Communist Party line.

Arrangements had first been made to have Dr. H. M. Griffiths, of the NEC staff, address the meeting. Then followed terrific pressure by local Zionists, who (falsely) claimed that both the speaker and NEC were "anti-Semitic" and demanded cancellation. When Dr. Griffiths fell ill, Miss Birchall asked Mr. Freedman to speak.

Sample of conversation inside the hall as reported by responsible eyewitnesses:

"We don't believe in anti-Semitism and you can't talk here," said a wearer of a Jewish War Veterans' cap.

"Why can't I speak?" asked Freedman. "Isn't this America?"

"If you want to speak, come with us. We'll provide you with an audience! You can't speak here."

"Are you members of the club? If

so, sit down, and you'll find I'm not anti-Semitic."

"You're not going to talk here!"

"I am an American and I am a Jew. I have given some \$500,000 to Jewish charities and I ask you what you have given to the same cause. Yet you have the nerve to call me anti-Semitic. I am anti-Communist. I recognize the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. I don't recognize any Jewish veterans but all American veterans. Also one flag and one country—America."

When a reporter for the *Nyack Journal-News* reached the hall, he was barred at the door. "You can't go up there," he was told. "I'm from the press and I'm going up," the reporter replied. The picket stepped aside.

Spring Valley Police Chief C. L. Lunney, upon arrival, indignant at the idea of "an anti-Semitic meeting," inquired why Miss Birchall didn't have Mr. Freedman speak in her own home rather than in public! When reminded of the constitutional guarantee of free speech his attitude changed, and upon being interrupted by one of the "veterans" he snapped: "You fellows keep quiet. I'm running this show now."

After it was apparent no meeting could be held, Lunney escorted the Freedmans and Miss Birchall through the crowd and away.

Repercussions in the community came soon. Conservative Jews expressed dismay at the tactics of the "veterans." The latter issued a statement to the press in which they expressed love for free speech and denied that they had interfered with anybody. "We sent several [about fifty, according to witnesses] members to the meeting place to act as observers."

It is understood that the denial of the civil right of free speech has already been called to the attention of both a Federal grand jury and the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Find out whether any similar outrage against free speech has been committed in your neighborhood by any alien-minded group.

BISHOPS CHIDED FOR PRO-RED RESOLUTION

Merwin K. Hart, NEC President, on Nov. 13th, addressed an open letter to the Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church protesting a resolution adopted by the Bishops on Nov. 6th, plainly directed against the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Noting that the resolution contained phrases which Communists are seeking to make popular, such as "hysterical fear of Communism," Hart declared: "It will be a matter of regret that the House of Bishops has fallen for this communist propaganda." Further, he warned: "It is strange indeed, on such flimsy pretext as that there is 'an inquisitorial investigation of men's personal beliefs,' to see 'bishops in the Church of God' [as they had styled themselves in their resolution] intervening on the side of men, whose tenets envision the destruction of our Republic . . . if not of the Church of God itself."

Later investigation revealed that the resolution was introduced, according to one of the bishops, "on the last morning when a good many of the bishops had left and others were leaving. It seemed innocuous and received the unanimous vote which always means to me that it is considered to be of no importance. . . ."

This act which "seemed innocuous" and of "no importance" but which is being widely and cleverly publicized by the communist and pro-communist press, was introduced by Bishop William Scarlett, of St. Louis, long reputed to be the ablest and shrewdest leftist in the Episcopal fold.

Agreeing with Hart's thesis that "The Bishops have been completely taken in," an unnamed Bishop quoted by Frank Waldrop in the *Washington Times-Herald* said sadly: "Hereafter, I shall ask that all such resolutions be presented on the first day of the meeting so that we will at least have time to think about them before we are asked to vote."

NEC PREDICTIONS BECOME FACT

When the members of the ITU—International Typographical Union—on Nov. 24th struck all Chicago newspapers, they highlighted predictions made by NEC in Council Letter No. 148, August 1, 1946.

In that letter, NEC told how Communist typesetters in Czechoslovakia refused to set type unless contents of the paper on which they worked suited their ideology, and warned how the new repressive leadership of the ITU was moving in the same direction. The end result, the Council warned further, would be the death of a free press.

The predicted pattern is now emerging. The Chicago strike involves not merely wages, hours and conditions of work. It is an attempt by the ITU to compel the papers concerned to adopt ITU ideology about labor legislation or go out of business.

Since the Taft-Hartley Act bans the "closed shop," the ITU is attempting to nullify the law by refusing to negotiate or sign a contract. Instead of a contract it wants publishers to accept "conditions of employment" (including wages and hours) laid down by the Union alone. The "conditions of employment" would include the closed shop, give the ITU right to refuse work from a struck shop elsewhere, forbid breach of contract suits against the ITU, and permit "featherbedding," all of which are prohibited by the Taft-Hartley Law. In order to comply, publishers would have to agree to flout the law. This they have refused to do.

Before the strike began publishers offered to negotiate in good faith a contract under the law, and to make any agreement retroactive to Oct. 21st. This the ITU refused to accept, insisting upon wage agreements which would then be incorporated in the Union's "conditions of employment" clause, but not embodied in a contract.

Observed Merwin K. Hart, NEC President: "The Chicago strike is a political strike, just as much so as the communist strike in Czechoslovakia. If American newspapers are to live under a constant threat of political strikes, their freedom will be gone. Unions as well as employers must obey the law."

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Straws in the Wind . . .

Although the right of free speech has not been infringed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which was trying to get witnesses to say where they stood, not to stop them, the deep-red and pale pink press has joined in charging violation of civil liberties.

The official communist *Daily Worker* of Dec. 2 headlined "Leaders in Arts, Sciences, Hit Pix Purge" over a statement accusing the House Committee of "government censorship and dictation." Signed were sixty-five names, ranging from known Communist Party wheelhorses, notorious Fellow-Travelers, genuinely confused "liberals" to pure innocents. Among the names were: Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Carey McWilliams, Carson Kanim, Ruth Gordon, William Rose Benet, Profs. Thos. I. Emerson and Fowler V. Harper of Yale Law School, Mark Van Doren, Deems Taylor, O. John Rogge, Jo Davidson, Olin Dowhies, Uta Hagen, Paul Robeson, Profs. Howard Mumford Jones, Kirley Mather and Allan M. Butler of Harvard; Profs. Robt. S. Lynd, Clyde R. Miller and Theo. Rosebury of Columbia University; Muriel Draper, Dorothy Parker, Libby Holman, Howard Fast, Minerva Pious, Rockwell Kent, Agnes Smedley, Prof. Emeritus Henry P. Fairchild of New York University, Dr. Moses Diamond and Louis Adamic. . . . The statement did not say what would happen to the signers if they issued a like manifesto in Soviet Russia.

Robt. L. Abel, an airlines radio operator on Dec. 1 resigned from the CIO American Communications Assn. protesting that he could no longer stomach its "slavish adherence to the Communist Party line." Revealing a situation extremely dangerous to the safety of the United States in the event of war, he announced he would use "every bit of my energy" to persuade members of the ACA's Air Line Communications Employees Association, which he formerly headed, to switch over to the non-Communist AFL Radio Officers Union. . . .

By the narrow margin of 215 votes to 205, the New York County Medical Society late in November defeated a resolution aimed at exempting physicians on government service from "loyalty tests." The resolution was moved and seconded by two members of the staff of New York City's Bellevue Hospital, owned and operated by the municipality. They were, Drs. Henry B. Richardson and Sidney M. Greenberg. In the heated debate Dr. J. A. P. Millet called loyalty tests "the worst kind of red baiting." But Dr. Wm. B. Rawls, vice-president of the society declared that "a small segment who sought to create confusion" were behind the resolution and recommended that they "should not be asked to resign, but should be kicked out." . . .

According to the *Washington Times-Herald* of Dec. 2, "Charles Luckman, retiring chief of the Administration's food conservation program and \$300,000-a-year head of a British-owned soap company in Boston, hopped home from Washington over Thanksgiving and boosted the price of his company's shortening ahead of any Administration price control actions. . . ."

During the first quarter of 1947, according to Congressman N. M. Mason, in the face of our own critical freight car shortage, we shipped to Europe 53 per cent of all freight cars produced during that period. . . .

Persistent reports declare that an impending grand jury expose will soon burst on Washington with the force of an atomic bomb. High ranking officials of the Roosevelt administration, it is predicted, will be charged with having formed the nucleus of a Communist Party espionage ring which gave top-secret military information to the Soviets on a scale that will make the Canadian espionage case seem comparatively insignificant. . . .

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